NBC NIGHTLY NEWS (9-19-2001)

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From Wendsday September 19th, 2001 NBC NIGHTLY NEWS with Tom Brokaw

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america on alert operation infinite justice is underway we'll get the latest from defense secretary donald rumsfeld president bush to address the nation tomorrow night the economy still reeling from last week's attacks another wild day on wall street boeing and american airlines announced massive layoffs the desperate search for survivors at ground zero goes high-tech and new pictures of the hijackers also the latest from the nbc news terrorism task force and the unofficial new national anthem from nbc news world headquarters in new york this is nbc nightly news with tom brokaw good evening tonight a major new american military operation is underway operation infinite justice as the president prepares to address the nation from the capitol tomorrow night and as he acknowledges that when it comes to the economy we are in for tough times we'll begin tonight with the military moves and nbc's jim miklaszewski at the pentagon jim what's the latest there tom defense secretary donald rumsfeld has signed the first deployment order sending some of the first u.s armed forces toward the front in america's war on terrorism the first wave contains 125 to 150 u.s air force war planes including f-15 strike eagles f-117 stealth fighters b-1 bombers and the workhorse b-52 long-range bombers it's a complete strike package for a punishing bombing campaign if the decision is made to attack afghanistan they could be used to carpet bomb terrorist training camps or provide cover for army airborne infantry and special forces troops on the ground in search of the prime suspect osama bin laden they'll join the 150 navy warplanes aboard two aircraft carriers the uss

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aboard two aircraft carriers the uss carl vinson and the uss enterprise which is in the arabian sea within striking distance of afghanistan the pentagon says whatever action the u.s military takes it's not aimed at some quick fix we're after something more than revenge we're after dealing with and eliminating this threat to civilization and today the aircraft carrier teddy roosevelt leaves norfolk for the mediterranean on a routine deployment which could quickly become anything but ground troops may be the next ones to pack up and ship out but it's still unclear tonight that the pentagon has made any final decisions on a battle plan tom thank you very much nbc jim mikloszewski tonight i'm joined now by defense secretary donald rumsfeld at his post in the pentagon mr secretary jim mklosky said in his closing comments it's not clear whether the pentagon has made any final battle plan i know you're not going to give away any secrets but have you come to some conclusions about what you're going to have to do [Music] tom the president has indicated what we have to do we have to defend the united states of america and our interests against the the very vicious type of attack that terrorists around the world are consistently attempting to impose on us and it seems to me that that's the task it the president said it would be a broad-based sustained effort it will include political economic diplomatic as well as military activity and he is he is very steady and purposeful about this uh you and the attorney general today said that there were a number of foreign countries that had connections to these terrorist networks around the world does that mean that there will be multiple operations and are some people are going to begin to call this world war three well i don't know what people will call it but i think we're going to need a new vocabulary as a people to think about it because the 21st century is very different than

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the 21st century is very different than the 20th it is a an important defining moment for our country i let there be no doubt but it seems to me that we have to be realistic uh there there is no question but that there are terrorists who because of the availability of weapons of mass destruction and the proliferation of these technologies have the ability to impose enormous damage on free people and they strike exactly at the at the very heart of what we are as free people and and we can't let that happen we need to defend ourselves against that and the only way to do it is to attack the terrorists where they live and to deal with those countries that are harboring and fostering and financing and tolerating that kind of violence mr secretary once military operations get underway as we have learned in the past there could very well be reprisals against americans what are you telling your family and friends about traveling outside the united states well i'm not telling them anything about that it seems to me that that people have to live their lives and they obviously as the president said have to recognize that this is a dangerous time and we have to live with a certain heightened awareness but we can't stop living if we stop living the terrorists have won and we don't intend to let them win finally mr secretary there's something called information warfare which is part of the 21st century as well some of these countries that are harboring terrorists should they expect that their transportation and communication and banking systems might be electronically interrupted tom you know i'm old-fashioned i just don't think it makes any sense for people who know anything to talk about intelligence matters or operational matters it puts people's lives at risk mr secretary thank you very much for being with us tonight thank you i know the whole country wishes you well thank you tom president bush spent most of his day today working the telephones and his own office talking to foreign leaders about firming up an international

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about firming up an international coalition to carry out this war on terrorism nbc's david gregory is at the white house now with the latest at 1600 pennsylvania avenue david and tom in addition to that late this afternoon the president announced that he will speak to the country tomorrow night in a joint session before congress now while this move signals a quickening pace toward retaliation aides here say that in fact the speech is not designed to announce any military action rather it is designed to define the mission and to urge the american people to remain patient one advisor saying the speech will define quote what it is we face and how we're going to face it meanwhile the white house today a flurry of one-on-one diplomacy as the president tries to solidify the still emerging international coalition meetings today in the oval office with president from indonesia megawati foreign ministers ivanov of russia and fisher of germany all pledging their support today but today the president also acknowledged some cracks in that still emerging coalition from countries in the middle east and asia countries who urge restraint or who question whether the united states has enough evidence yet to pinpoint its retaliation in response the president today called for all countries to help either overtly or discreetly by providing intelligence in what he called a long sustained campaign not against islam but against evil an effort he said to quote round up these people tom thanks very much nbc's david gregory at the white house tonight one critical country does appear to be on board tonight that's pakistan afghanistan's neighbor today its leader made the case to his people for supporting the united states despite powerful anti-american sentiment within pakistan nbc's ron allen joins us again tonight from the capital city of islamabad ron tom tonight on national television pakistan's president musharraf saying his nation faces its worst crisis since war with neighboring india 30 years ago in 1971. the united states wearing his general's uniform for this crucial speech the

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uniform for this crucial speech the sheriff said the us wants help with intelligence logistics and use of pakistan's airspace if it attacks afghanistan the president saying he agreed to three u.s objectives bringing bin laden to justice and destroying his network punishing afghanistan's leaders the taliban for harboring him and eradicating terrorism targets what we should pay attention to within these three demands he said is that they are not waging a war against islam and the afghan nation the president in power just two years following a bloodless coup now trying to maintain control of an unruly nation of 140 million muslims for the fourth straight day anti-american protests erupting in pakistan over the president's decision to support the u.s in

afghanistan today hundreds of taliban religious leaders meeting to decide how to respond to america's demand to surrender bin laden the taliban still asking for evidence as the threat of war increases thousands of afghans now fleeing the country and now aid workers warn millions inside afghanistan could face starvation there is only a two-week supply of humanitarian food aid left i think the world has to respond very quickly to the humanitarian catastrophe that would be unfolding in this region ironically afghanistan's biggest donor is the nation that might attack the us 170 million dollars in aid each year another major u.s concern here in pakistan the growing unrest some families of u.s personnel at the american embassy already preparing to leave and tonight the british embassy telling all non-essential personnel to come home tom nbc's ron allen tonight in islamabad and back home on wall street the first week back in business continues to be a very rough ride for american investors the dow was down 423 points at its lowest moment a late burst of buying reversed much of the damage the dow closed down more than 144 points of the end

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now to the investigation fbi agents across the country are rounding out more people that they believe may have information about the attacks 115 people now in custody tonight the money trail is providing important new clues and from our terrorism task force nbc pete williams joins us once again pete tom good evening to you federal agents tell nbc news they've now determined that all 19 hijackers responsible for last week's attacks shared one single source of money one contact who provided them all with cash federal agents say following the money trail has turned out to be a surprisingly productive part of the investigation shedding new light on the terrorist network in the u.s they say the money that supported the hijackers paying for their flight schools and their rent and even for cash withdrawals like this one the fbi says by two of the pentagon plane hijackers from an automatic teller a week before the attack the money all came from one single source inside the us one they declined to identify and where did that source get the money officials say it's still under investigation including whether that link leads to osama bin laden letters from the fbi and the federal reserve ask every u.s bank for any records of financial transactions involving the hijackers inspecting the damage at the pentagon today the attorney general vows to keep the pressure on to round up associates of the hijackers i make no apology for being forceful in our enforcing the law and requiring adherence to the law in orlando today a secret court proceeding for a man officials say is a travel agent suspected of selling airline tickets to some of the hijackers in detroit agents urgently search for another man identified by the fbi as nabil al-marab thought to have ties to two of the hijackers and from portland maine today these still pictures from the mourning of the terrorist attack hijacker muhammad atta boarding a commuter flight in maine authorities say heading to boston for one of the flights that crashed into the world trade center

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that crashed into the world trade center but the justice department has yet to officially release any photographs of the hijackers partly because the government says it can't be sure they use their real names and didn't falsify their passports with other people's names and pictures tom thanks very much nbc's pete williams tonight i'll be back as the number of dead and missing keeps growing at the world trade center but the mayor did give people some cause for comfort today there will be a memorial service this sunday at yankee stadium for a city and mourning nbc's david bloom joins us now with the latest from lower manhattan where he has been up close and personal david tom most americans know that new york's fire department was decimated by last tuesday's attack at last count 343 firefighters feared dead it's understandable this proud department has been reluctant to take a camera crew deep inside ground zero but tonight they did new york's bravest hard at work in so much pain [Applause] nine days of searching and they're still on their hands and knees the first pictures tonight of new york city's brave firefighters men like chief jim hodgins who lost 30 men from his battalion alone tired motions are running high tents right now the firefighters grasp arms exchange a hug pass buckets and rake debris inside the smoking pits the twisted remains of a car a woman's shoe in the mud they stop work only when the dogs search hope in these firefighters eyes their spirits soar wind late today one search dog starts to bark furiously a possible sign of life a rescue worker follows him crawling deep into the debris the dogs walk and they start scratching their pores there's a good chance there's somebody there and tonight new york firefighters getting high-tech help

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getting high-tech help three-dimensional laser imagery mapping the debris piles it's actually a pit there those red areas are pits which are collapsed downward could even be the sub-basements of the buildings search and rescue teams using sophisticated cameras and listening devices and from the us military tiny robots some just 10 inches long working deep below the world trade center searching for any possible survivors but above ground as the operation slowly turns from rescue to recovery these firefighters physically and emotionally drain men like christopher flatley who lost 10 men from his station house alone vow to stay there's no way i don't think you could ask any guy here would ever leave until the last man was found we're just not gonna leave anybody it is so gut-wrenching in some cases fathers firefighters are searching for their sons new york mayor giuliani vowing tonight that the search rescue and recovery will go on tom or two a new irving berlin song became the unofficial national anthem especially when sung by kate smith it's still around of course but mostly for big ceremonial occasions now in the last week it once again has taken its place as a song that unifies and reassures america everywhere

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god bless america my home my that's highway news for this wednesday the president of the united states tomorrow night addressing the nation at nine eastern state with this nbc station and of course continuous coverage on msnbc on cable and msnbc.com i'm tom brokaw

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